

The North Cascades are home to numerous species, including the Bald Eagle, Spotted Owl and grizzly bear. The park is also home to world-class recreation areas. Families can hunt, fish and boat in and around scenic mountain lakes.

During the last four decades, millions of Americans have experienced the beauty of the North Cascades. I want to thank all of the men and women who have worked so hard to create the North Cascades National Park, and I invite all Americans to come visit this national treasure.

#### FINANCIAL GUN TO THE HEAD OF AMERICA

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, because Wall Street has made bad judgment calls, the American taxpayer has been forced to bail them out at \$700 billion. Seven hundred billion, what does that mean? That means every man, woman, child and illegal in the United States will have to fork over \$2,000 apiece to bail out the money grabber barons on Wall Street. And that's just wrong.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, the bigger the business, the more the Federal Government thinks it should swoop in save these incompetent business people? Small businesses, mom and pop stores, don't get this break. When they make bad financial decisions, they go out of business. But the rich and famous Wall Street New York City fat cats expect "Joe Six-Pack" to buck it up and pay for all this nonsense.

Reward people for being irresponsible and expect responsible people to pay for the sins of the financial industry? I don't think so.

Putting a financial gun to the head of America is not the answer. The government has no authority to force Americans to ante up a \$700 billion ransom to save the hides of the rich robber barons on Wall Street.

And that's just the way it is.

#### STATEMENT ON HURRICANE IKE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I want to use my 1 minute today to talk about the disaster from Hurricane Ike in the district I represent.

These two pictures behind me are two separate homes that were hit by the wave action, the storm surge. You can see, this house is totally destroyed, and in this home, literally the waves went right through the home, knocked down the brick and everything else.

That is not counting the thousands of homes and businesses and even industry that the power is out. Certain zip codes are more than 50 percent out of power, and when you have a Houston

September, which is really summertime, I have folks living outside their homes literally for the last 10 days.

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental today for the CR is something that is so important to my area and all of Southeast Texas. I want to thank both the Speaker and Chairman OBEY and my colleagues for helping work on funding for that for the initial disaster assistance, \$22 billion for disaster relief activities, including \$6.5 billion for CDBG funding and \$8 billion for FEMA assistance, which is just the down payment.

You have the fourth largest city in the country. Southeast Texas is devastated. To get that community back up, we need the assistance. Just like we helped California with the fires and the earthquakes, the floods in the Midwest and everywhere else, our community needs that help too, and I want to thank the leadership for doing it.

These two homes are in Baytown, Texas, in East Harris County, that I share with Congressman TED POE. This is actually in our district that I saw Monday morning with the mayor, Steve DonCarlos, and a city council member.

You can see what just the storm surge did. Just think about what hurricane force winds did to people's homes. We are a Pine trees area, so we have a lot of those trees that have fallen on houses and powerlines.

#### NO BUFFETT DEAL FOR TAXPAYERS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there is a double standard that is occurring in the wake of the largest government bailout in history. Warren Buffett yesterday announced he will invest \$5 billion in Goldman Sachs, the investment bank at which the Secretary of Treasury Paulson used to be the CEO. The struggling investment bank is attempting to raise capital and has wooed Buffett into his plan by offering his company preferred shares in return's for Buffett's bailout investment.

And herein lies the double standard. The Treasury Secretary, who happens to have close ties with Goldman Sachs, wants authority to use taxpayer dollars to bail out private financial companies, including his own firm, while taxpayers will get nothing at all in return but bad debt.

If taxpayers are going to get stuck bailing out bad debt, shouldn't they get some kind of Buffett deal as well? Clearly this government bailout is fraught with nothing but double standards and conflicts of interest.

#### TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP RESPONSIBLE WALL STREET ASSISTANCE PLAN

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, greed is the accelerator that drives a capitalist economy. But unless you are willing to tap on the regulatory brakes once in awhile, you are going to crash. We learned that 75 years ago, and now we are learning it again. But now the average American household is being asked to cough up about \$5,000 to bail out Wall Street. That is not fair. Nor will the plan that we are being given prove to be effective.

What we need to do is to deal with the underlying mortgages, to restructure those mortgages, rather than force the taxpayer to be buying securities that they wouldn't buy in their own good judgment. The taxpayer cannot be held holding the bag.

What we need to do is stay in session until we can get it right, until we can prove to our constituents that what we have done is responsible and fair. We cannot vote this week on a \$700 billion package, when we really don't know what is responsible and fair.

#### ENERGY BILL AND OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, one needs to look no further than the headlines in our Nation's newspapers to see the consequences of doing nothing with regard to the energy crisis facing our Nation.

We have stood idly by while skyrocketing fuel and energy prices undercut consumer confidence and are partially responsible for our current economic straits. But instead of passing a comprehensive energy bill in which all forms of energy were on the table, last week we took up legislation which will not only prove ineffective, but I believe counterproductive.

It was a bill written behind closed doors, with no input from Republicans, and even many Democrats wishing to participate. It bypassed the Natural Resources Committee and was brought to the floor under a closed rule, freezing out members of both parties, all after a promise of the most open Congress in history.

Mr. Speaker, let's not make the same mistake this week. We still have time. Bring the American Energy Act to the floor for a vote before we adjourn, and we can help address the crisis facing our Nation.

#### TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT BAIL OUT THE BARONS OF WALL STREET

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayers should not be asked to bail out the barons of Wall Street, Henry Paulson's best friends.